

Our 43rd ARRL affiliated year
Special Service Club

Serving Greater Springfield, MA

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

President's Remarks

The January VHF contest was a lot of fun, even in spite of the adverse weather (snow, ice etc.) which interfered with the antenna systems. Our club station W1NY, had its share of additional problems, power and equipment malfunctions. Our hats are off to Art, W1KK the club station trustee and the crew of operators who spent many long hours making contacts and fixing the equipment. Special appreciation goes to all the club members who helped raise the club score by making contacts on all VHF frequencies. Don't forget to send in your reports either to the ARRL or to the HCRA (or bring them to the next meeting).

At the February meeting John Lindholm, W1XX will give his thoughts on VHF. See the writeup elsewhere in the newsletter.

Your Board is working on the premise that you want your club to be broad in Ham Radio scope, as you indicated in last years survey (summarized in the December, 89 issue of Zero Beat). To accomplish this we are planning to have a flea market on April 29, at the Agawam High School (see Fred, N1DPM, he's looking for volunteers to assist). In May we are planning to have a meeting on radio control of airplanes, we

may even have a demonstration (see Jim, N1DUY, if you have any ideas on how we can do this). If you have any interest in a particular subject please let any of the Board members know, their names are listed elsewhere.

73 and see you at the next meeting, de K1BXE, Yorke

About the VHF Contest...

This year's VHF contest will be one to remember. Mother nature decided to hand us a big snow and ice storm right in the middle of the contest weekend. Many stations in the northeast were rendered usable due to ice buildups on their antenna systems. And for those who could get on the air, there was no one to contact, because everyone else was off.

The W1NY station was affected by the storm on 2 meters, 220 Mhz, and 432. The 6 meter amp shorted out it's power switch, which was not likely a result of the storm, but nevertheless rendered the amp useless for most of Sunday.

A good portion of W1NY's contacts were made on 2m, 220, and 440 FM. Without the good turnout on FM, W1NY's score would be even lower than it is. This was a particularly important year for local FM activity, and we appreciate all

Next meeting will be Friday, February 2nd, 8:00PM at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Next board meeting will be Thursday, February 8th, 7:30PM at Greg, N1AEH's house

Next VE exam will be Wednesday, February 7th, 7:00PM at the Agawam High School

Club Officers

President—Yorke Phillips, K1BXE
Vice President—Stan Hilinski, KA1ZE
Treasurer—Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
Secretary/Clerk—Jeanette Platanitis, KA1MEW

Board of Directors

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Jim Sebolt, N1DUY | Ed Goldberg, WA1PLS |
| Larry Lemoine, N1EPE | Fred Stefanik, N1DPM |
| Steve Nelson, WA1EYF | Frank Potts, NC1I |
| Cliff Junkins, W1UWX | Bob Lafleur, NQ1C |

who participated in the contest even to make just a handful of contacts.

Please don't forget to send in your contest entry to the ARRL. It is very important that you do this, and make sure that the Hampden County Radio Association is marked as your club (if you're using one of our preprinted forms that we distributed, it will already be, if you're using one from the ARRL, you'll have to write it in yourself). We need 50 club members to send in their entries in order to be entered in the "unlimited" category.

If you have any questions about filling out your contest entry, please bring it to the meeting and we will be glad to help you. Or you can call Bob, NQ1C at (413) 737-8503. You can also contact Fred, N1DPM, or Stan, KA1ZE about your contest entry.

This was surely a contest to remember. Who knows what next year will bring...

W1NY Packet Mailbox Status

The W1NY Packet mailbox has been under the SYSOP control of NQ1C for just about a year now. Here's a quick rundown of where the BBS stands.

The system is currently running the AA4RE multiconnect BBS software version 2.8, with NQ1C modifications. 4 simultaneous connects are currently supported.

The hardware is an XT with an 8 Mhz V20 chip, 704K of memory, 360K 5.25" disk drive, 720K 3.5" disk drive, and 20 meg hard drive. The TNC is a dual-port DRSI card, connected to a Kenwood TM-2550 into a Hustler G6-144 for 145.01, and a Kenwood 3530 into a cushcraft beam for 221.05.

In the past year, the BBS has handled over 26,500 messages and has about 380 registered users. The system knows how to forward directly to over 50 different BBS systems, and can send messages anywhere in the world through these systems.

Plans are being made to add a 70cm 9600 baud port for forwarding directly into the NEDA (North East Digital Association) network backbone, and to install the G8BPQ network software. The number of simultaneous connects

allowed will probably also be increased to 8, as more and more users are finding the system busy.

If you have any questions about the bulletin board, please contact Bob, NQ1C.

February Meeting: W1XX on VHF Contesting

John Lindholm, W1XX, Manager of Membership Communications Services for the ARRL, will be giving a talk of VHF contest operations at our next meeting. John's specialty in the VHF contest is operating portable. He has operated the contest from such places as FN00, FN01, on top of the UN building in New York, and Cadillac Mountain in Maine.

John has come in 2nd place in the Multi-Multi category in some of the recent VHF contests. He'll be bringing some slides to show us about some of his operations.

This should be an excellent meeting. Frank, NC1I will be the meeting host. Hope to see you there!

For Sale

Gent Lam, WA1CQF (413-562-7100) has the following for sale:

- Kenwood TS-940S/AT, YK88C-1 Mint \$1775
- 3-500Z Linear amp 80-10m, 240V line, full wave PS \$395
- 3-500Z Linear, same as above with more bells \$475
- Mosely TA-33 Jr 3 el beam, CD-45 rotor, 27' tiltover tower \$200
- Benchner paddle w/built in keyer, relay output keys any rig \$55
- KW Roller Inductor tuner, \$65
- Simpson 260 multimeter \$55
- Leader LCR-740 RLC Bridge \$120
- Tandy DT 100 Video terminal \$15
- 2 Televideo 905 terminals, 1 spare board, manual \$50
- 13.8vdc 20amp regulated PS \$75
- 13.8vdc 25amp regulated PS, metered \$100
- Coax phase meter (SWR indicator) \$20
- 6 4-250 tubes and 4 sockets \$75
- variacs, coax, meters, misc

Mike, W1DGJ (413-583-6678) has the following for sale:

- Drake TR-4C transceiver with AC-4 power supply
- Drake TR-4CW transceiver with AC-4 power supply
- Drake RV4C external VFO
- DX Engineering speech processor for Drake line

North East Digital Association

packet network
Massachusetts user port map
rev 1.05 1/06/90

NEDA
Box 563
Manchester, NH
03105-0563

See also:
New York User map
New York Backbone map
New Hampshire User map
New Hampshire Backbone map
Massachusetts Backbone map

The heavy dashed lines denote protected hidden transmitter syndrome (HTS) free backbones. Nodes which are not connected into the HTS free network will let a user port into the HTS free backbone. To get into the NEDA network you must connect to that user port. From there you can connect to any other user port in the network. To connect from the network to a node outside the network it is necessary to connect to a NEDA user port that can talk to the desired node and then to the desired node outside the network.

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to E Grafton

to MA nodes.
See NY map
to KINGSMT node
to MEOA, MIOA, Waterfield Mass
also MWV, Maine nodes, Quebec
KLUCA, KATPEP, N31N BBSs
NIBPU-1
MA state EOC
then connect to KING11
then connect to MIOA
then connect to MIOA
then to NIBPU-1

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New York
See Hudson
Division Map

Massachusetts

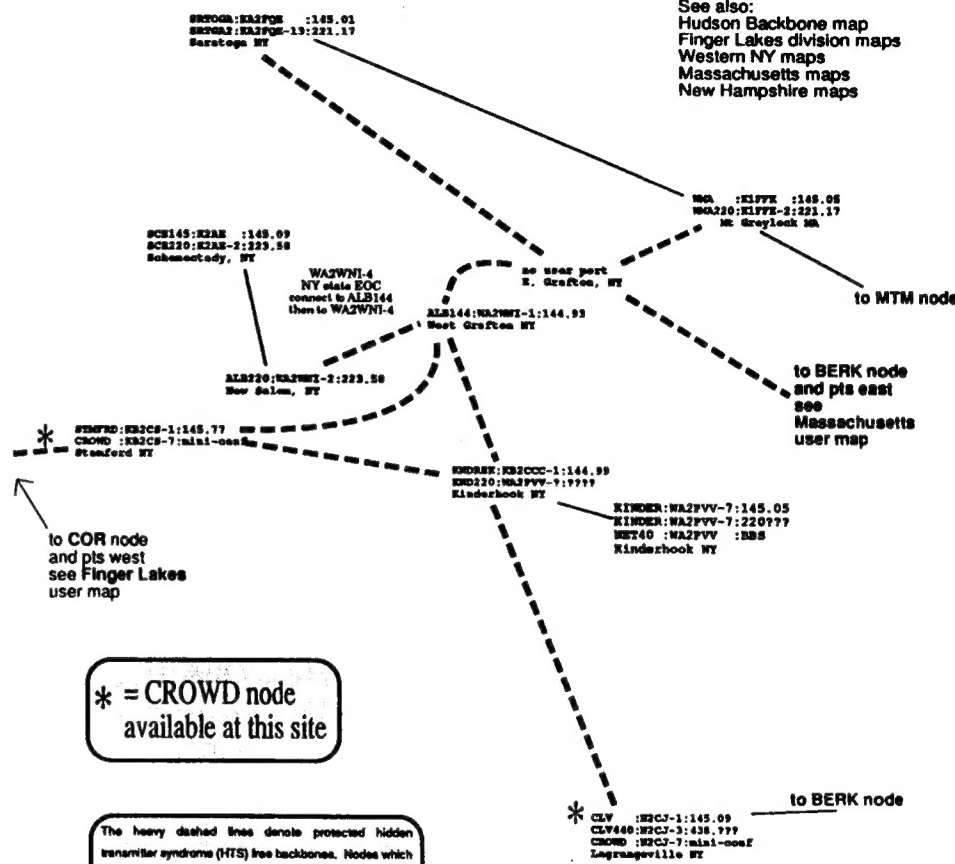
Connecticut

Can't find anyone to packet with? Try the BERK CROWD node. Connect into the network, do a C BERK, then C CROWD. Type /H for a list of commands on CROWD. If there's nobody on CROWD, wait a while. You'll be there when the next person connects! There's usually 5 or 6 people on in any evening.

North East Digital Association Hudson user port map rev 1.01 1/05/90

NEDA
Box 563
Manchester, NH
03105-0563

See also:
Hudson Backbone map
Finger Lakes division maps
Western NY maps
Massachusetts maps
New Hampshire maps



* = CROWD node
available at this site

The heavy dashed lines denote protected hidden transmitter syndrome (HTS) free backbones. Nodes which are not connected into the HTS free network will let a user port into the HTS free backbone. To get into the NEDA network you must connect to that user port. From there you can connect to any other user port in the network. To connect from the network to a node outside the network it is necessary to connect to a NEDA user port that can talk to the desired node and then to the desired node outside the network.

Can't find anyone to packet with? Try the BERK CROWD node. Connect into the network, do a C BERK, then C CROWD. Type /H for a list of commands on CROWD. If there's nobody on CROWD, wait a while. You'll be there when the next person connects! There's usually 5 or 6 people on in any evening.

Some info on μ SATs

The new μ SAT (Microsat) satellites were successfully launched on the weekend of January 20th. One of these satellites, PACSAT, is a packet radio satellite that requires use of a special PSK packet modem. Another satellite, DOVE, uses standard FM packet.

You can listen for these satellites telemetry on 145.825 Mhz. If you monitor 145.825 between 9:00 and 10:00 pm with packet, you may be able to copy DOVE sending it's telemetry. If you monitor 145.825 with packet, please shut your TNC beacon off. DOVE does not receive on this frequency, and if you transmit, you will only interfere with other stations trying to monitor DOVE

The other two Amateur Radio satellites that were launched with PACSAT and DOVE are LUSAT, and WEBERSAT..

VE Exams

Exams are sponsored by the HCRA on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM *sharp* at the Agawam High School. VE's are also needed. If you are interested in taking an exam or helping give exams, please contact Jeanette KA1MEW at 786-1463.

The next exam will be October 4th.

HCRA Meetings

First Friday of each month at
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Center of Feeding Hills
Intersection of routes 57 & 187
Doors open at 7:30 PM
Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM

Local Nets

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| HCRA 10 Meter Net | Thursday 9:00 PM 28.650 |
| Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net | Daily 9:30 PM 146.28/88 |
| 80 Meter Ragchew Net | Tuesday 8:00 PM 3.709 Mhz |
| WMPN | Daily 6:00 PM 3.937 |
| WMSN | Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 PM 3.713 |
| WMN | Daily 7:00 PM 3.562 |
| WMTN | Monday-Friday 1:00 PM 146.31/91 |
| CPN | Monday-Saturday 6:00 PM 3.965 |
| | Sunday 10:00 AM 3.965 |
| Mt. Tom Information Net | Wednesday 7:30 PM 146.34/94 |
| Mt. Tom Swap Net | Follows Mt. Tom Information Net |
| Mt. Tom Emergency Net | Sunday 8:45 AM 146.34/94 |
| Agawam Civil Defense Net | Monday 8:00 PM 449.175 & 146.70 |
| RASON | Daily 9:00 PM 146.13/73 |
| WESCON | Daily 8:30 PM 147.78/18 |
| CN | Daily 7:00 & 10:00 PM 3.640 |
| CSN | Monday-Friday 7:30 PM 3.720 |
| CSTN | KY1T PBBS, 145.01 Mhz |

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.
P O Box 482
West Springfield MA 01090-0482
Editor: Bob Lafleur, NQ1C

Forwarding & Address
Correction Requested



10/90 AC1T

[Redacted address lines]